



SHARPE JAMES

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

07102

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWARK SEEKS TO BLOCK DEVELOPER FROM REPLACING CITY SIDEWALK

Mayor Sharpe James today asked the City's attorney to institute court action to stop developer, Harry Grant, from replacing the sidewalk on Broad Street beyond the boundaries approved by the Municipal Council.

According to Corporation Counsel Glenn Grant, the Bergen County builder was authorized by the governing body to remove the existing concrete walkway along Broad Street from Edison Place to Franklin Street and replace it with a brick sidewalk.

But, Mayor James maintained that the developer has violated that agreement by extending his work all the way to the federal building.

"Enough is enough," claimed the Mayor, "We cannot allow him to continue to act irresponsibly like this.

"Harry Grant was personally told by City Engineer Alvin Zach that he could not go beyond City Hall and Franklin Street. Yet in defiance of any understanding, he deliberately went ahead without permission or the required permits and pursued his project an additional two blocks," James asserted.

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The Mayor said that Zach and City Attorney Grant will file a "formal complaint" in municipal court tomorrow against the developer.

"Mr. Grant must be made to understand that no individual--whether rich or poor, no matter how good his intentions--is above the law and can be allowed to do as he pleases in total disrespect of government's rules and regulations," James contended.

Last month, James wrote to Grant thanking him for his "civic-mindedness," while asking him to "refrain from any further offers to upgrade the physical premises of City Hall" and surrounding areas, and suggested that if he wanted to offer any unsolicited assistance to the City in the future," he should do so "through one of our numerous social programs to help our citizens."